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The majority of them are five-or six-tube sets. The most popular post-war model, which was manufactured until 1948, was the "Congress", a 6-tube set receiving on all three wave lengths. Short-wave reception in private homes is fairly good, even without an aerial, on the 3-tube set. The advice of Western stations to use indoor aeriels is disregarded by the population for fear of being caught, since the presence of an indoor aerial is used as evidence of listening to Western broadcasts.

Hours of Listening

6. Normal working hours of the majority of the population are as follows:

- a. Industry: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. If a factory is working in two or three shifts, these hours vary.
- b. Offices: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- c. Stores: 8 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The research department of the Ministry of Information advised the local broadcasting stations that the most popular listening time was between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., and the most important programs are scheduled at those hours.

7. Musical programs are preferred early in the morning (6 a.m. to 7 a.m.), while listening to foreign short-wave broadcasts at this time is not practicable because it necessitates sitting near the receiver. Housewives prefer domestic women's programs and light music during the morning and afternoon. News broadcasts and political programs from local or foreign stations are heard from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Courses, political lectures, and meetings are usually held immediately after work hours to enable workers and clerks to be home by 7 p.m. Party meetings of residents in city precincts are held monthly after 8 p.m., but the latest Party directives have exempted from participation those workers who belong to the Party organization in their places of employment.

Local Broadcast Stations

8. The majority of the population of Bohemia and Moravia listen to the Prague I and Ceskoslovensko stations and the Brno, Pilsen, and Ostrava relay stations. The last-named three have only two to three hours per day of independent programs. The residents of Slovakia listen to Radio Bratislava and the Banska Bystrica, Kosice, and Presov relay stations.
9. The most popular program of Radio Prague and its relay stations is the Radio Newsreel (Rozhlasove Noviny), which is broadcast daily from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. This program features news, on-the-spot reports from factories and public gatherings, sports news, weather forecasts, and comments on local and foreign political events. The most popular cultural program, other than music, is the Conversation with Listeners (Beseda a Posluchaci). The commentary on local and foreign political events by Professor Nejedly, former Minister of Education and now Chairman of the Academy of Sciences, attracts many listeners at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Talks on Marxism and Leninism, on improvement of workers' proficiency and productivity, and on the desirability of collectivized agriculture are the least popular programs.

Reaction to Local Broadcasts

10. It is believed that a large percentage of the population does not believe, or is doubtful of, the reliability and accuracy of the local news broadcasts. The local stations are regarded as propaganda instruments to further the Communist cause by misinforming the public about the current local and world situation. The propaganda programs for increased work productivity have antagonized even the small section of loyal Communists.

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11. Local political commentaries, especially those on the local economy, are received with complete indifference, since the news on those matters can easily be proved false. The only effective argument in them is the comparison of post-war employment with the large pre-war unemployment. While the idolization of the USSR in the foreign political commentaries is viewed with disfavor, the topic of rearmament of West Germany was presented so effectively that it created a widespread negative reaction against the Western powers.
12. Large sections of the population listen to news and political commentators despite their distortion of the truth, and the perpetual repetition of the same "facts" leaves its mark on listeners. This can be observed by discussing current politics with people who are truly anti-Communist but who have come to believe at least part of the distorted news reports. The weekly talks of Professor Nejedly, which are given in a simple and popular style, are among the most effective propaganda talks.

Local Short-Wave Broadcasts in Foreign Languages

13. From 1946 to 1951 the Czechoslovak radio broadcast in approximately 20 languages on short wave to other Communist countries. These programs were discontinued in 1951 with the exception of the broadcasts in Serbo-Croatian, which were expanded. Most short-wave programs are broadcast in the evening, and the program editors, who serve also as speakers, begin work daily at 4 p.m.
14. The Hungarian programs of Radio Bratislava, whose listeners are the Hungarian peasants in Slovakia, are the only local short-wave broadcasts to attract a sizeable audience in Czechoslovakia. Reactions to short-wave broadcasts outside Czechoslovakia are sporadic, and the editors feel that the broadcasts are maintained only as a matter of prestige.

Western Broadcasts to Czechoslovakia

15. Listening to Western stations is widespread, and even Party members admit that they have listened to some Western broadcasts. Only regular listening to Western propaganda stations is considered dangerous. The vast majority of the population listens to the Czech and Slovak broadcasts of the BBC, Radio Free Europe, the Voice of America, Paris, and Rome (listed in the order of popularity). Intellectuals also listen to the German broadcasts from Switzerland (Beromuenster), RIAS (Berlin), and Red-White-Red (Vienna), whose reception is clearer than Czech and Slovak broadcasts of the Western stations. The usual audience for Western broadcasts is the family circle, although some intimate acquaintances are sometimes included.
16. Jamming of Western broadcasts is extensive and fairly effective in most parts of the country. It is less effective in the morning, when reception is weaker than in the evening. Jamming of the Belgrade, Ankara, Madrid, and Vatican stations is far less extensive than that of British and American stations. The greatest effect of jamming is felt in the Smichov quarter in Prague, at the foot of Petrin hill, on which a jamming station is reported to be located. It is less effective in the Nusle and Pankrac districts of Prague, which are on higher ground. Reception in provincial towns in Slovakia is better than in Prague and other major towns.
17. Wavelengths on which reception is best are affected by jamming and cannot be determined, as the jamming varies. When jamming is felt on a certain wave length, it is customary to tune in another station or the same station on a different wave length. While the power of the jamming is not dependent on the nature of the program, American broadcasts in Czech are definitely jammed more than other stations. The station which broadcasts on as many wave

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lengths as possible has the greater potential audience, since the listeners have more chances of finding the station on a wave length which is not being jammed. The extensive jamming of foreign broadcasts to Czechoslovakia produces a twofold reaction on the listener:

- a. He vilifies the Government for not letting him listen to foreign broadcasts, with the resultant increased hatred of the régime.
- b. He does not have patience enough to search persistently for a better wave length, which causes him either to turn the set off or to tune in on a musical program on medium wave.

18. By far the great majority of listeners want to hear the news broadcasts, preferably from the BBC. If jamming makes reception of the BBC impossible, the listener has a better chance of tuning in on Radio Free Europe, which broadcasts on more wave lengths and presents more news broadcasts than the BBC. The BBC has the longest tradition among listeners of Eastern Europe, and its news broadcasts are still considered the most authentic and reliable source of information. However, the BBC's political commentaries are far less popular than its news broadcasts; the exaggerated objectivity, dryness, and matter-of-fact tone conveys the impression of a disinterested observer. The only BBC program in Czech, other than the news, to enjoy wide popularity is the weekly talk of Sir Bruce Lockhart. This is probably the most listened-to foreign program beamed toward Czechoslovakia.
19. The Voice of America broadcasts are not popular with Czech listeners. In contrast to the BBC, the VOA puts too much emphasis on propaganda, something which Czechs are too well acquainted with from their own stations. Despite their hostility toward the Communist régime, the Czech people are tired of and refuse to accept exaggerated propaganda, even if it comes from the West. The educational authorities of the régime make every effort to direct the people to cultural fields and forms of entertainment which are different from those in the Western world, and the style and contents of various sketches and stories on VOA broadcasts tend to appear alien to the Czech listener.
20. Radio Free Europe is the most listened-to foreign station. Its technical superiority, its almost uninterrupted broadcasts, and the intellectual relationship of its editors with the local population give it great advantages over other stations. Its success is due in great part to the fact that its employees have lived in post-war Czechoslovakia, know the people's state of mind, and have found the proper tone of approach to the Czech people. Radio Free Europe's prestige suffers, however, from its unreliable news service with its broadcasts of "news" which is later proved completely unfounded. The RFE story of Lavrenti Beria's escape from the USSR is an example of unreliable news accounts. RFE does not deal satisfactorily with the idea of a European Federation, which would dispel the people's fear of renewed German aggression and which would counteract the régime's insistence that security lies only in friendship with and protection from the USSR. Nor does RFE explain satisfactorily the differences of opinion among the Western powers, which the régime propagates so assiduously and which have a marked influence on the people's minds. Among the popular programs from RFE are the talks of Ferdinand Peroutka, the Sunday evening round-table discussions, and the satirical program of Jaroslav Kohout. The "black lists" of Communist informers are listened to attentively by both Communists and non-Communists.
21. The exchange of information derived from foreign broadcasts among friends, in offices, and in factories is a known and accepted habit. If the information is related in wider circles, it is presented as if the listener had accidentally

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caught the station on his set. News obtained from Western broadcasts is not discussed in public, except in undertones. Both convinced and opportunistic Communists do not deny having listened to Western broadcasts, but they always refer to them in ironic terms and emphasize that the information is completely false. Primitive, fanatic Communists are convinced that the Western stations are lying. Fellow travelers, speaking to friends who know their true attitude, remark that there is much to be praised in the service the stations are performing, but that nothing will ever change and that there is no recourse except to go along with the Communists.

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